

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO SIGNET BANK OF MARYLAND

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 1995

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to the Signet Bank of Maryland on its 200th anniversary of serving the Baltimore community. Originally established as the Bank of Baltimore on Christmas Eve 1795 by the Maryland General Assembly, Signet Bank of Maryland is the direct descendant of that original bank.

For two centuries, the Bank of Baltimore and its descendants have remained on the same site, at the heart and core of Baltimore. The bank has steered a steady and profitable course through the War of 1812, numerous financial panics of the 19th century, the Great Fire of Baltimore in 1904 and the Great Depression.

In 1985, Union Trust Bancorp, a descendant of the original Bank of Baltimore, and Bank of Virginia Co. merged to create a \$7 billion multibank institution. The name was changed to Signet Banking Corp. a year later. Presently, Signet Bank of Maryland is a full-service commercial bank with 87 locations throughout central Maryland, the Eastern Shore, and the Maryland suburbs of Washington DC. In offering specialized services for retail and commercial banking, international trade finance, trust, asset-based lending and leasing, cash management, real estate, insurance and consumer financing, Signet is an important contributor to the prosperity of Baltimore and Maryland.

A subsidiary of Signet Banking Corp., which is approximately a \$10 billion multibank holding company, Signet Bank of Maryland and its ancestors have been the financial home for many generations of Baltimoreans. Signet has shared in Maryland's rich history and there is little doubt that it will continue to be a major contributor to our community into the 21st century.

I hope my colleagues will join me in extending congratulations to Signet Bank of Maryland in celebrating its 200-year history in Maryland.

TRIBUTE TO THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MODESTO

HON. GARY A. CONDIT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 1995

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the League of Women Voters of Modesto for its 48 years of dedicated service to the voters of our community in the 18th Congressional District. This year marks the 75th anniversary of the League of Women Voters of the United States. During its historic past throughout our Nation, the league has encouraged the in-

formed and active participation of citizens in government as well as influenced public policy through education and advocacy.

The League of Women Voters of Modesto under the leadership of its first president in 1947, Helen Pierce, to its current president, Julie Saugstad, has provided a driving force in our community to keep our voters abreast of the issues facing our local communities as well as the Nation. In the 1950's, the Modesto league began studying local government institutions under the leadership of Esther Beard Brack and Mary Johnson, founding members and former presidents. With the aid of former president, Thelma Van Overbeek, the league opened its first office. As the 1960's progressed, so did the league's involvement with issues on both the State and local levels. The work of then presidents Doris Scanlon and Irene Chadwick made it possible for the league to hold televised Candidate's Nights. In the 1970's, the league began holding a weekly television program to educate the community about pressing issues. In addition, it began printing its ever-popular Facts for Voters in both English and Spanish. At that time, the league worked under the direction of Connie Harris, Carole Davis, and Alita Roberts.

The league of Modesto continued its work in the 1980's by actively participating in local activities. Local member Kenni Friedman went on to become president of the League of Women Voters of California. Former local presidents, Myrtle Osner, Dorothy Schmidt, Jean Hamp, and Lisa Howard along with the rest of the members brought the league into the 1990's by their continued participation in government. The league can proudly reflect on two of its local members Councilmember Friedman of Modesto and Supervisor Pat Paul of Oakdale who have been elected to local government posts.

The league has continued its original mission of providing voter service and education by its candidates forums, production of Facts for Voters, and the lobbying of government bodies.

Mr. Speaker, on March 25, 1995, the League of Women Voters of Modesto will be recognized for its years of service at the Stanislaus County Commission for Women 16th Annual Outstanding Women Celebration. Since the inception of this annual event, 32 members of the league have been recognized as Outstanding Women.

I am proud to represent such fine members of our community as well as to recognize the league for its invaluable service.

INTRODUCTION OF PRESIDIO LEGISLATION

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 1995

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing bipartisan legislation to create a Pre-

sidio Trust at the Presidio in San Francisco which is included in the national park system as part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

I am pleased to be joined in this bipartisan effort by my colleague from California, Representative STEPHEN HORN, and by Representative BENJAMIN GILMAN from New York. These Members, from east to west, appreciate the national significance of the Presidio and the need for innovative ways to reduce Federal costs for its operations.

Presidio Trust legislation, H.R. 3433, was considered by the Congress in the last session where it passed the House and was reported by a 20 to 0 vote in Senate committee. It was not taken up by the full Senate in the final days of the session.

Creation of a Presidio Trust would enable Federal costs for this national park to be reduced considerably. The structure of the trust is based on the study of 19 management models by independent financial and real estate experts who determined that this legislative proposal would be successful in reducing costs to the Government.

The legislation calls for private-sector expertise and management of the Presidio's extensive nonpark properties. There are over 900 structures at the Presidio, almost half of which are historic. A significant number of these properties could be leased with revenues retained to support renovation and operation of the park's facilities.

A small board of planning and financial experts would direct the trust's activities and the National Park Service would continue its traditional management of resource protection and open-space park areas.

Today's legislation differs from H.R. 3433 in its provision for a smaller, more efficient board of experts, and its streamlined management structure. The bill's financing provisions are subject to appropriations and additional private or other financing possibilities are included.

A more detailed summary of the legislation is included below:

SUMMARY OF PRESIDIO TRUST LEGISLATION, 104TH CONGRESS

Background: The Presidio is a scenic and historic former Army post that is now included in the national park system as part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Because the Presidio contains substantial building space, it offers an opportunity, unique within the national park system—to generate revenues from building leases. In order to realize the savings that this opportunity affords, a public-private management entity (Presidio Trust) with specialized financing and managerial expertise is needed.

The Presidio Trust would manage the renovation and leasing of specific Presidio properties transferred by the National Park Service. Ownership would be vested with the federal government and the Presidio would be operated as a national park with the Park Service continuing its traditional management of open space areas and visitor and public safety services.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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